

April 4, 2013

Dr. Mamdouh Shoukri  
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My name is Amnon Zohar and I am a 3rd year undergraduate student at York University majoring in Political Science. I am an Israeli born and educated business executive, serial Internet software entrepreneur and a Canadian citizen living in Canada for 42 years. My studies at York are unrelated to my occupation except as a reflection of my interest and passion for world affair and geopolitics. I will be celebrating my 70th birthday later this year.

I am writing to you in protest of York University's tacit endorsement of the YFS BDS resolution, if not formally then by word of mouth of many students and professors, which I find both offensive and personally and culturally threatening.

I have made several attempts to make the faculty members and the dean of students aware of my concern about the blatant, biased, misleading and inaccurate teaching in a number of courses with regards to the portrayal of Israel, Zionism and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Unfortunately I was unable to penetrate the academic bureaucracy to express my grievances. My numerous attempts to work through the system have been ignored.

The recent YFS resolution and the handling thereof convinced me that I should make one last effort inside the university by approaching you directly. I would like to air my grievances in a face-to-face meeting with you. My aim is to understand the policy of the university with regards to the teaching of world conflicts and global security issues and most particularly the Israeli Palestinian conflict. In our meeting I will share with you ample and specific documented proof of my concerns regarding the deliberate demonization of Zionism in general and of the state of Israel in particular.

I fully understand the concept of academic freedom but just as importantly I would like to challenge the integrity and the objectivity of the teaching and teachers whose lectures I attended (and may I add received top grades). As a student my goal is to learn, to be informed and to acquire the analytical skills and methodologies to form my own opinions rather than to be fed what too closely borders on propaganda.

I trust that you are interested in getting feedback from students who do not have career or grade considerations and thus are not reluctant to speak their mind.  
Please indicate your interest and availability to meet with me. I will make myself available anytime and place to discuss this matter.

Sincerely

Amnon Zohar  
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